GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4734
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
AGRO-PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by the Government for Agro-Processing Sector during the current year;

(b) whether the Government have any concrete plan for food processing industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to invest in food processing industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a): Agro processing sector has been accorded priority attention by the Government. However, since agro processing includes both food and non-food items and are in organized and unorganized sectors, no specific financial or physical targets could be set by the Government.

(b) & (c): The Department of Food Processing Industries hasinitiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and for this purpose a Draft Policy has been prepared, which broadly covers issues relating to availability ofraw material, backward linkages, processing facilities including post-harvest infrastructure, packaging, food quality and safety etc.

(d) & (e): The Department of Food Processing Industries doesnot set up any food processing unit on its own. However, under its Plan Schemes, it provides financial assistance to Private Industries, Public Sector Undertakings, Non- GovernmentalOrganisations, Cooperatives, Human Resources Development and Research & Development Institutionsetc. for the development of the Food Processing Sector.